



JACK O'CONNELL
State Superintendent of Public Instruction

**CALIFORNIA
DEPARTMENT
OF
EDUCATION**

1430 N Street

P.O. Box 944272

Sacramento, CA

94244-2722

December 30, 2003

Dear Prospective Applicant:

Re: Release of the 21st Century Community Learning Centers Request for Application

The California Department of Education is seeking applications for the second cohort of grantees for the California 21st Century Community Learning Centers (21st CCLC) Program. Based on the federal No Child Left Behind (NCLB) Act and allocated through the California State Budget, this state-administered provision is for five, one-year grants to be identified through a competitive Request for Application (RFA) review process. Approximately \$27 million in NCLB funding is designated for after school programs proposed to serve elementary/middle school students to help the students meet state and local standards in the core content areas during time beyond the regular school day. (A separate RFA, based on California Education Code Sections 8420-8428, will be available for approximately \$2 million in grant awards for new programs serving high school students.)

As stated in federal law (Title 20, United States Code, Sections 7171-7176) and California Education Code Section 8484, the purpose of the California 21st CCLC is to provide incentives for elementary and middle schools to establish or expand activities that focus on: 1) improved academic achievement, 2) enrichment services that reinforce and complement the academic program, and 3) family literacy and related educational development services. It is important to carefully review the RFA section on "Prioritized Eligibility for Funding" to understand the criteria for both the absolute funding priority and the competitive priority. Entities eligible to apply for funding in addition to local educational agencies (LEAs) include city and county entities, community-based organizations (CBOs), public or private entities (including private schools and faith-based organizations), or a consortium of such agencies, organizations, or entities. Existing California After School Education and Safety (ASES) grantees as well as federally funded 21st CCLC grantees also may apply for these funds.

The Request for Application (RFA) will be available on the California Department of Education (CDE) Web site at www.cde.ca.gov/afterschool/ on January 5, 2004. A completed application for funding must be postmarked or received by CDE no later than March 3, 2004. The RFA details the funding structure, funding priorities, and programmatic requirements of the California 21st CCLC program. The RFA Information Session Digital Web cast is scheduled for broadcast to

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various locations around the state and on the Web on January 7, 2003, from 9:30 am to Noon. Information regarding the Web cast will be posted on the CDE Web site at www.cde.ca.gov/afterschool/.

We hope that this opportunity will enable schools and communities to collaborate in order to provide a more comprehensive array of support for student learning beyond the regular school day. If you have any questions, please email the After School Partnerships Office, at hsasp@cde.ca.gov or contact Pat Rainey, at (916) 319-0923.

Sincerely,

SUE STICKEL
Deputy Superintendent
Curriculum and Instruction Branch

WADE S. BRYNELSON
Assistant Superintendent
Learning Support and Partnerships Division

SS:jlb
Enclosures